

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-05 /075 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RBMORLEY:JES

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:BWBROWN,JR.,ACTING

AID/ASIA/SA:JECOLAS (DRAFT)

NEA:PCONSTABLE (DRAFT)

EB:CCAVANAUGH (DRAFT)

NEA/P:GSHERMAN (DRAFT)

USIS:CSNOW (INFO)

S/PRS:MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

NEA/PAB:RPECK (DRAFT)

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R 210221Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, IN

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DEPARTMENT'S
SPOKEMAN FOR USE ON CONTINGENCY BASIS. PARA 2 BELOW RELATES
TO CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO-U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS,
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WHILE PARA 3 DEALS WITH INDO-PAK RELATIONS.

2. Q. HOW DO YOU RECONCILE THE TWO DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE OF INDO-U.S. RELATIONS IN ONE OF THIS MORNING'S PAPERS. ONE ACCOUNT FROM DELHI REPORTS THE AMBASSADOR AS SEEING A THAW OR IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS AND THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT QUOTES STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS NOTING THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE IMPROVEMENT IN THE INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. JUST WHAT IS THE STATE OF INDO-U.S. RELATIONS CURRENTLY?

Q. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE TWO VIEWS ARE INCONSISTENT. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE SHARE THAT VIEW AND WE SHARE THE AMBASSADOR'S HOPE THAT OUR RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WE STAND READY TO DO OUR SHARE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH AN IMPROVEMENT.

Q. ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, AMBASSADOR SAXBE HAS STATED THAT INDO-U.S. RELATIONS "WERE BEGINNING TO THAW" AND THAT PRESIDENT FORD PLANNED TO INCLUDE 60 MILLION DOLS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDIA IN HIS NEW BUDGET. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THIS?

A. AS YOU WILL RECALL, EARLIER THIS YEAR WE DECIDED TO POSTPONE TALKS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE UNTIL FY 77, BECAUSE WE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT AN ATMOSPHERE EXISTED IN WHICH WE COULD GO FORWARD WITH DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. OUR PROPOSAL FOR APPROXIMATELY 60 MILLION DOLS IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR INDIA WENT TO THE CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY. THIS IS A PLANNING FIGURE, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY PROGRAM DEPENDS ON THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INDIANS.

Q. ARE YOU THEN CONFIRMING THAT THE U.S. WILL HAVE AN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN INDIA IN FY 77?

A. NO, I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT AT THIS TIME. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE MAY OFFER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SHOULD BILATERAL RELATIONS IMPROVE SUFFICIENTLY TO SUPPORT SUCH A PROGRAM. ONLY THEN WOULD WE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE WITH THE INDIANS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT FOOD AID? I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INDIANS HAVE ACCEPTED A PL 480 AGREEMENT BY WHICH THE U.S. WOULD PROVIDE 400,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND 100,000 TONS OF RICE ON A CONCESSIONAL BASIS. CAN YOU CONFIRM THESE FIGURES?

A. WE ARE DISCUSSING A PROPOSED TITLE I PL 480 PROGRAM

WITH THE INDIANS. NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED AS YET, ALTHOUGH WE ARE HOPEFUL ONE WILL BE SIGNED SHORTLY.

Q. WILL IT INCLUDE 400,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND 100,000 TONS OF RICE, AS REPORTED?

A. IT IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE BOTH WHEAT AND RICE. I WOULD PREFER NOT TO DISCUSS EXACT AMOUNTS UNTIL AN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED.

3. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO INDIA'S INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN INCLUDING POSSIBLY RESTORING DIPLOMATIC TIES?

A. OUR POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO ENCOURAGE ANY AND ALL EFFORTS TO SEE THE STATES OF THAT REGION RECONCILE THEIR RELATIONS. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO REGIONAL STABILITY. WE HAVE LENT OUR MAXIMUM ENCOURAGEMENT TO

THE SIMLA PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION. WE HOPE THAT THE NATIONS OF THAT AREA WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES AND WE APPLAUD SUCH EFFORTS.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT INDIA WANTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN BECAUSE OF PAKISTAN'S CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND INDIA'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH CHINA?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON THE MOTIVATIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, I WILL SIMPLY REITERATE THAT OUR POLICY HAS BEEN TO ENCOURAGE THE NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES.

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4. SPOKESMAN DREW ONLY ON GUIDANCE CONTAINED PARA 3 DURING TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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